Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an introducer sheath, comprising:

positioning a coil over a mandrel;

positioning a first polymeric sleeve over the coil and the mandrel, the first polymeric sleeve comprising a first striped extrusion arranged in a generally helical pattern along an outer surface of the first sleeve;

positioning a second polymeric sleeve over the first sleeve, the second polymeric sleeve comprising a second striped extrusion arranged in a generally helical pattern along the second sleeve, the second striped extrusion having a pitch extending in a generally opposite direction from a pitch of the first striped extrusion;

positioning a heat shrink tube over an assembly comprising the mandrel, coil, and first and second sleeves; and

heating the assembly to a temperature sufficient to cause the heat shrink material to shrink, such that the first and second polymeric sleeves melt together to form a tubular polymeric sheath body enveloping said coil, said second striped extrusion being superposed over said first striped extrusion in said sheath body to define a generally braid-like configuration therein, said braid-like configuration disposed radially outwardly from said coil.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first striped extrusion comprises a plurality of extruded first stripes formed in said first polymeric sleeve, each said first stripe spaced from an adjoining stripe and arranged in said generally helical pattern, and said second striped extrusion comprises a plurality of extruded second stripes formed in said second polymeric sleeve, each said second stripe spaced from an adjoining stripe and arranged in said generally helical pattern.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second striped extrusion is provided along an inner surface of the second polymeric sleeve.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first polymeric sleeve is co-extruded with the first striped extrusion, and the second polymeric sleeve is co-extruded with the second striped extrusion.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising positioning an inner liner over the mandrel intermediate the mandrel and the first polymeric sleeve.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the sheath body is bonded to the inner liner between the coil turns by the heating.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said polymeric sleeves comprises at least two sleeve segments along a length of said sleeve, said segments axially aligned along said sleeve length such that a more proximal segment is of higher durometer and a more distal segment is of lower durometer.

11-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an introducer sheath, comprising:

positioning an inner liner over a mandrel;

positioning a coil over the inner liner, the coil having a plurality of coil turns;

positioning a first polymeric sleeve over the coil, the first polymeric sleeve comprising a first striped extrusion arranged in a generally helical pattern along the first sleeve;

positioning a second polymeric sleeve over the first sleeve, the second polymeric sleeve comprising a second striped extrusion arranged in a generally helical pattern along the second sleeve, the second striped extrusion having a pitch generally opposite a pitch of the first striped extrusion, said second sleeve being aligned over said first sleeve such that upon a melting of said sleeves said second striped extrusion is superposed over said first striped extrusion and a generally braid-like configuration is defined thereby;

positioning a heat shrink material over an assembly comprising the mandrel, inner liner, coil, and first and second sleeves; and

heating the assembly to a temperature sufficient to cause said heat shrink material to shrink, said heating further causing said first and second sleeves to melt together to form an outer tubular layer and to define said generally braid-like configuration therein, wherein said heat shrink material causes said outer tubular layer to bond to said inner liner through said coil turns.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of removing said mandrel and heat shrink material.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the first striped extrusion is provided along an outer surface of the first polymeric

sleeve, and the second striped extrusion is provided along an inner surface of the second polymeric sleeve.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said first striped extrusion comprises a plurality of extruded first stripes formed in said first polymeric sleeve, each said first stripe spaced from an adjoining stripe and arranged in said generally helical pattern, and said second striped extrusion comprises a plurality of extruded second stripes formed in said second polymeric sleeve, each said second stripe spaced from an adjoining stripe and arranged in said generally helical pattern.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the first polymeric sleeve is co-extruded with the first striped extrusion, and the second polymeric sleeve is co-extruded with the second striped extrusion.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of said polymeric sleeves comprises at least two sleeve segments, said segments comprising a proximal segment of a higher durometer and a distal segment of a lower durometer.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein each of said polymeric sleeves comprises at least two sleeve segments, said segments comprising a proximal segment of a higher durometer and a distal segment of a lower durometer.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said sleeves are formed from a polyamide material.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of said first and second striped extrusions is formed from a polyamide material having a higher durometer than a durometer of said sleeves.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further including the step of forming at least one of said sleeves comprising said striped extrusion by a stripe extrusion process.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein at least one of said polymeric sleeves includes a radiopaque sleeve distal of said distal segment.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said radiopaque sleeve has a lower durometer than said distal segment.

33. (Previously presented)The method of claim 1, wherein each of said first and second sleeves has a pre-heated wall thickness of from about 0.005 to 0.010 inch [0.127 to 0.254 mm].